

TATTLER[®]

RESTAURANT GUIDE 2012



'For your convenience, Sir, the items starred are dishes associated with success, riches, power and the like'

taste
OF LONDON

27-28 JUNE REGENT'S PARK
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
BRITISH AIRWAYS

CHAMPAGNE
Laurent-Perrier
MAISON FONDÉE
1812

DEUTSCHER WEIN 2012

OUTSIDE TABLES

Bank Westminster

45 Buckingham Gate, SW1E 6BS (bankrestaurants.com or 020 7630 6644)
This is a very handy address to know, situated as it is in a culinary no-man's-land. With the longest bar in Europe and light pouring through large floor-to-ceiling windows, Bank looks as new as the day it opened more than 10 years ago. They do very vibrant salads for lunch and a flavourful ribeye or sirloin for dinner – but the nicest thing about Bank is its wide courtyard, where you eat al fresco, in a private setting only 200 yards from Buckingham Palace. £££

Boundary Rooftop

2-4 Boundary Street, E2 7DD
(theboundary.co.uk or 020 7729 1051)

We raved about Boundary Rooftop last year and, going back, found the magic had only increased. The Nicola Lesbirel-designed garden – very Zen – is laid out around an open fire, and is a wonderful place for drinks on a summer's evening. Alongside, under a canopy, is the restaurant, where they do king prawns, chicken and lamb chops on the grill, all of it lip-smacking. £££

Hush

8 Lancashire Court, W1S 1EY
(hush.co.uk or 020 7659 1500)

The ever-popular Hush, now a decade old, has the most enviable location in Mayfair. The cobbled courtyard is so enchanting that you feel as if you are eating in an Italian piazza, and it's splendid for people-watching. On Saturday evenings they have classic film screenings outside. Inside, the brasserie is looking very fresh

after a recent facelift and we think the food, which has always been very good here, is on top form. £££

EST. 1999
Hush

Motcomb's

26 Motcomb Street, SW1X 8JU
(motcombs.co.uk or 020 7235 6382)

This is smart without being remotely snobby, a Belgravia venue with bags of charm and charisma. Its small terrace lets you see the comings and goings on the attractive street, while inside there are real characters at the bar, and a first-rate modern brasserie menu. Owner Philip Lawless is a gifted restaurateur who has helped raise hundreds of thousands for charity through the annual Motcomb Street party. £££

Odette's

130 Regent's Park Road, NW1 8XL (odettesprimrose.hill.com or 020 7586 8569)

The totally lovely, romantic walled garden is open all year and also has tables on the street – the surprisingly quiet main drag of Primrose Hill. Bryn Williams's cooking, which has sometimes been overcomplicated, has hit its stride, using prime produce and no more than three or four elements in every dish. The menu – with its top-notch beef, lamb and cheese – references Wales throughout. ££££

The Olde Bell

Hurley, Berkshire SL6 5LX (theoldebells.co.uk or 01628 703504)

The Bell has been brought bang up to date by designer Ilse Crawford, who also did Soho House. You can eat in the enticing meadow garden, with its own summer kitchen and locally sourced meat and fish cooked on the rotisserie or in the kamado oven. Chef Warren Geraghty is a passionate forager and the garden aims to provide half of all the fruit, herbs and vegetables eaten here. £££

One Blenheim Terrace

1 Blenheim Terrace, NW8 0EH
(oneblenheimterrace.co.uk or 020 7372 1722)

Many restaurants have come and gone at this most perfect of sites, but One Blenheim Terrace is the best yet. Owner-chef Ed Shaerf comes from the Ivy, so he knows what this well-heeled crowd wants to eat. His playfully reworked retro menu offers dishes like Caesar salad and beef Wellington. Sitting on the terrace on a summer's evening feels as blissful as the South of France. ££££



Le Pont de la Tour

36d Shad Thames, SE1 2YE
(lepontdelatour.co.uk or 020 7403 8403)

Handsomely proportioned, mildly nautical, with a magical terrace alongside the Thames facing Tower Bridge, Pont has always been very glamorous. New chef Tom Cook is building on the tradition of classic French dishes, while sommelier Nicolas Clerc does a very fine job. Despite the odd niggle with staff, who can be a bit snippy under pressure, it's terrific for a family celebration or a romantic waterside dinner for two. ££££